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## HEADER

R 040731Z JUN 91

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CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 [REDACTED]

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SERIAL: (U) [REDACTED]

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/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

BODY

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA (SF).

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SUBJ: (U) [REDACTED] COURT AVIATION - SOUTH  
AFRICA'S LARGEST HELICOPTER BUSINESS.-----  
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
-----WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTEL. REPORT IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL.  
DOI: (U) 910529.

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SOURCE: A. (U) //OPEN//MAGAZINE, "MURRAY AND ROBERTS  
SURVEY" (U), JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA 910529, IN ENGLISH.

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SUMMARY: (U) REPORTS ON MURRAY AND ROBERTS ASSOCIATE COURT  
HELICOPTERS, SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST HELICOPTER BUSINESS  
AND AMONG THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD FOR SERVICING SHIPS..TEXT: 1. (U) COURT HELICOPTERS IS AN ASSOCIATE OF  
MURRAY AND ROBERTS [REDACTED](b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50  
USC 3024(i)[REDACTED] COURT IS ACTIVE  
IN MANY AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL  
BUSINESSES.

2. (U) COURT'S FLEET OF AIRCRAFT IS MADE UP OF 27  
HELICOPTERS, INCLUDING EIGHT TWIN ENGINE MACHINES CAPABLE  
OF CARRYING 24 PEOPLE - THE ONLY CRAFT OF THEIR KIND IN  
SOUTH AFRICA, AND IN HIGH DEMAND IN MOST COUNTRIES FOR  
POWER AND VERSATILITY. WHILE COURT PROVIDES AIRCRAFT FOR  
VARIOUS RADIO STATION TRAFFIC REPORTS, AND WAS INVOLVED IN  
FERRYING NELSON MANDELA TO HIS FIRST RALLY IN DURBAN, THE  
CORE OF THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS HAS BEEN INDUSTRIAL. PART  
OF THIS CORE BUSINESS IS IN SERVICING PASSING SHIPS.  
TANKERS ROUNDING THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, WHICH STAY FAR OFF  
LAND, ARE SERVICED WITH CREW AND SUPPLIES FERRIED BY  
COURT. OFFSHORE SERVICING EXTENDS TO OIL RIGS AND  
LIGHTHOUSES. COURT HAS BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE  
MOSSGAS OFFSHORE GAS PROJECT, FLYING REGULARLY TO THE  
DRILLING PLATFORM CARRYING STAFF AND EQUIPMENT. THREE  
AIRCRAFT, TWO OF THEM LARGE SIKORSKY UNITS, ARE ON  
PERMANENT CHARTER TO SOEKOR IN GEORGE.

3. (U) ANOTHER LARGE MACHINE REMAINS IN CAPE TOWN AS  
PART OF THE SHIP SUPPLY SERVICE, WHILE A FOURTH IS  
OVERSEAS ON LONG TERM CHARTER. ACCORDING TO COURT  
MANAGING DIRECTOR JEREMY ((LABUSCHAGNE)), LONG AND MEDIUM  
TERM CHARTER ARE A CRUCIAL PART OF COURT'S BUSINESS.

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COURT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, OPERATED IN SOUTH AMERICA AND EVEN HAD SOME AIRCRAFT "ANNEXED" BY THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE DURING THE FALKLANDS WAR. "WE HAVE DEFINITE TARGETS ON USAGE OF OUR AIRCRAFT," SAYS LABUSCHAGNE. ON LARGER HELICOPTERS, COURT WANTS 100 HOURS PER AIRCRAFT PER MONTH, WITH SMALLER MACHINES TARGETED FOR 50 HOURS. "IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE A STABLE BASE LOAD OF BUSINESS BECAUSE OUR EQUIPMENT IS SO EXPENSIVE."

4. (U) BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO ENSURE OPTIMAL UTILIZATION, COURT HAS BEEN EXPANDING ITS SPHERE OF OPERATIONS, SUCH AS INTO THE CAPE AND JOHANNESBURG TOURISM BUSINESS. THE MAKING OF MOVIES TOO IS PART OF THE "NICHE MARKET STRATEGY" COURT HAS ADOPTED. ONE OF THE MORE IMAGINATIVE WAYS OF DIVERSIFYING IS POWERLINE INSULATOR CLEANING FOR ESKOM USING HELICOPTERS, SOMETHING COURT HAS BEEN DOING SINCE 1988. A BUILD UP OF DIRT ON POWERLINE INSULATORS IMPAIRS THE EFFICIENCY OF ESKOM'S GRID. THE HELICOPTER, FITTED WITH A BOOM WAND AS MUCH AS 10 METERS LONG THROUGH WHICH WATER IS SPRAYED, WEAVES IN AND OUT OF THE LINES IN CLEANING INSULATORS. HELICOPTERS ARE ALSO BEING USED IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, FROM POURING CONCRETE TO LIFTING CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY TO OUT OF THE WAY PLACES.

5. (U) MAKING ASSETS WORK ALSO APPLIES TO COURT'S REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. HELICOPTER AND FIXED WING MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS HANGAR FACILITIES, GENERATE REVENUE AND KEEP COURT'S TECHNICAL CAPACITY AT A HIGH LEVEL OF UTILIZATION. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SKILL OF COURT'S TECHNICAL SERVICES, THE COMPANY BOUGHT AND REFURBISHED A 24 SEAT SIKORSKY S61 WHICH CRASHED ON TOP OF NEW YORK'S PAN AM BUILDING SOME YEARS AGO. THE AIRCRAFT WAS STRIPPED DOWN AND REMOVED FROM THE BUILDING THROUGH THE SERVICE LIFT, FREIGHTED BACK TO SOUTH AFRICA AND REBUILT. TODAY THE SAME AIRCRAFT FLEW OUT OF COURT'S CAPE TOWN DOCK FACILITY.

6. (U) COURT HAS ALSO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RESCUE CAPABILITY. FOUR HELICOPTERS ARE CHARTERED BY THE JOHN ROLFE RESCUE FLEET. COURT PARTICIPATES IN OCEAN SALVAGE BY TAKING TEAMS TO STRIKEN VESSELS AND AIRLIFTING OFF CREWS.

(b)(1);(b)(3):10  
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(c)

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